

Light diffusion prevents the plants from growing if the bulbs are too far away, while heat burns the plants if you place the bulbs too close. Also, another effect of the light diffusion problem is that the stems tend to grow long and spindly because the plant is constantly working to get as close as possible to the source of light. All this requires you to alter the distance between the plant and the bulb every few days. As the plant grows, the ever-widening space between the light and the lowest leaves prevents them from receiving enough light. Eventually they will die. This would not be so bad, since they are smokable and should be carefully collected, but it also retards the growth of the side branches.

For this reason, if you are using all incandescent bulbs, YOU WILL WANT TO KEEP THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE BULB AND PLANT AT ABOUT 14 INCHES (NO CLOSER), and you will want to replace the original 60-watt bulb used for germinating with 100-watt bulbs when the plants reach 8-10 inches tall, and replace the 100's with 150 watt bulbs when the plants are 1-1/2 to 2 feet tall. The larger bulbs diffuse light farther, but they are also hotter, so it is necessary to move the light a little farther from the plants. As the plants reach a height of four feet or more you may want to put in a 200-watt bulb or larger. This is advisable; you should also suspend a 60-watt or 100-watt about a quarter or a third of the way up from the base of the plant. This provides excellent stimulation to the side branches. With incandescent there is a possibility that the top of the plant or one of the side branches will scorch so badly that it will no longer grow. This does not mean the end of the plant, unless it is very young. Cannabis is hardy and will sprout new branches. FOR INCANDESCENT LIGHTING, ONE 100-WATT BULB FOR EVERY FOUR PLANTS IS ADEQUATE. A 100-watt bulb burns at about 1/3 cent per hour. Its working life is some 700 hours, but, after 500 hours, it darkens and should be replaced.

If you are using fluorescents, you will want to keep the distance between plant and light at about 18 inches. Fluorescent tubes give off approximately 2-1/2 times as much light as incandescent bulbs. However, the heat output watt for watt, is the same in both types. In fluorescents, however, the heat is spread over such a length of tube heat that it becomes scarcely noticeable. That is why one refers to fluorescent as a cool type of light. The area on either side of the fluorescent tube is called a pole, and the light tends to jump in arc formation between these poles. The high point of this arc is in the middle twelve inches of the tube. This area most nearly approximates true sunshine. Directly beneath is the right place to grow plants. WITH FLUORESCENT LIGHT, ONE PLANT SHOULD BE GROWN FOR EVERY TWO FEET OF LAMP. The cost of fluorescent lighting is approximately 1/8 cents per hour per 40 watt tube. Fluorescent tubes usually last about 14 months, but a change every 6 months is advisable, however, since a tube's light efficiency decreases with age. The discarded tube can be used for household lighting.

If you are using the COOL WHITE type of fluorescent tubes (less red rays), you should have one 60-watt incandescent bulb for every fluorescent tube.

Taking into account everything concerned with artificial lighting and the growing of marihuana, I believe that a closet is the ideal place for an indoor garden.

You'll want to either paint your closet white or line the walls, floor, and ceiling with aluminum foil to give maximum reflection. Small pulleys can be bought at any hardware store and affixed to the ceiling for facilitating the raising and lowering of the lights. The temperature of the growing chamber should never drop below 70 degrees, and 80 is about perfect until the plants start to develop flower stalks, at which time the temperature can be allowed to reach 100 degrees. The plant will defend itself against this extra heat by producing additional resin.